EXHIBIT A

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November 16, 2004

BY FACSIMILE

Office of Freedom of Information and Security Review
Directorate for Executive Services and Communications
FOIA/Privacy Branch
1155 Defense Pentagon
Room 2C757
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Attn: Matthew Waxman
Deputy Asst. Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs

Re: Request for information under Federal Freedom of Information Act

To whom it may concern:

We represent The Associated Press ("AP"), and this is a request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). AP is seeking production of the following:

1. Copies of all documents containing any allegations or accounts of mistreatment by U.S. military personnel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since the detention mission began in January 2002.

2. Copies of documents sufficient to identify each disciplinary action initiated since January 2002 as the result of an allegation of mistreatment at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including but not limited to the date the action was initiated, the name of the troop(s) charged, the status of the action, and a description of any disciplinary action recommended or taken.

3. Copies of documents sufficient to identify each allegation of detainee-against-detainee abuse at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since January 2002, including a description of the alleged abuse and any action(s) taken in response.

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4. Copies of documents sufficient to identify the number of allegations of abuse at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since January 2002 that have been reported through the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

5. Copies of documents sufficient to identify the number of allegations of mistreatment committed by translators at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since January 2002, including a description of the alleged mistreatment and any action(s) taken in response.

6. Copies of documents sufficient to identify the number of detainees transferred or released from Guantanamo Bay who had been treated for medical problems during their detention.

7. Copies of documents sufficient to identify each construction contract relating to work performed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since January 2002, including the name of the contractor, the contract amount, and a description of the services to be provided.

AP is seeking these materials in connection with its reporting on a continuing news story of great interest to the public. We therefore ask that you expedite your response to these requests as required by 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(6)(E). Because this information is of timely news value, if you have any questions about this request, please contact me by telephone, fax or email, rather than relying upon regular mail. You may reach me by telephone at (212) 850-6113, by fax at (212) 850-6299, or by email at hdelaine@lskslaw.com.

When you complete your work on this request, I would also appreciate it if you would contact me by phone so I can arrange for a courier to pick up the documents.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Very truly yours,

Halimah D. DeLaine

cc: Paisley Dodds